

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 1-11, as follows:

In a further embodiment, the inside surface 4 of the implant 1 may be machined so that the hollow central region 7 approximates the configuration and geometry of the implant exterior (*i.e.* form an ellipse or oval shape). The hollow central region may be designed to be packed with osteogenic material such as bone chips, etc. to facilitate fusion of the implant with the patient's lamina. Preferably, the central region may be as large as possible to enhance fusion of the implant to the patient's lamina. The thickness of wall 45 preferably should be between about 1.00 to about 1.50 mm; more preferably about 1.25 mm. Preferably the thickness of wall 5 should not be less than about 1.0 mm to ensure the implant retains sufficient strength to withstand the stresses imparted on the spine. Accordingly, based on the preferred wall thicknesses and preferred ranges of length, width, and depth described above, hollow central region 7 comprises preferably most of the volume of the implant.